

1652
PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-1314)

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

Pieter Hendrik Pouwels)
Serial No. 09/720,583) Examiner: Malgorzata A. Walicka
Filed: June 25, 2001) Group Art Unit: 1652
Title: Propionibacterium Vector)

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

Sir:

MAR 14 2003

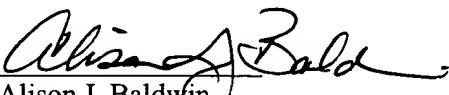
In regard to the above identified application:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

1. We are transmitting herewith the attached:
 - a. Response to Office Action Mailed December 3, 2002;
 - b. Tabs A – E:
 - Tab A = Marked-up Version of Amendments to Claims
 - Tab B = Clean Version of All Pending Claims
 - Tab C = Marked Up Version of Amendments to Specification
 - Tab D = Clean Version of Amendments to Specification
 - Tab E = Deposit Information
 - c. Return Receipt Postcard.
2. With respect to additional fees:

Check in the amount of \$0.00.
3. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No.13-2490. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
4. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the papers, as described in paragraph 1 hereinabove, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 3rd day of March, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Alison J. Baldwin
Reg. No. 48,968



PATENT

BJP
DP
3/24/03

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-1314)

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

Pieter Pouwels, et al.

Serial No. 09/720,583

Examiner: Malgorzata A. Walicka

Filed: June 25, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1652

Title: Propionibacterium Vector

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION
MAILED DECEMBER 3, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

MAR 14 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated December 3, 2002, the Applicants make the following amendments to the claims and specification and make the following arguments in response to the Examiner's rejections of Claims 28 and 29 of this application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

28. (Twice Amended) A process for the production of vitamin B₁₂ (cobalamin), the process comprising culturing a *Propionibacterium* host cell under conditions in which the vitamin is produced and, if necessary, isolating the vitamin, wherein the *Propionibacterium* host cell contains a polynucleotide comprising a sequence that is: